

Serial No. 10/025,460
Amdt. dated December 22, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 21, 2003

Docket No. 2119-0171P

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 7-11 are allowed. Claims 1-6, 12, and 14-19 are rejected. Claim 13 is objected to.

The Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 7-11. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been amended to address the antecedent basis problem noted by the Examiner.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejections set forth in the Office Action, the Applicant has decided to cancel claims 1-6, 12, and 14 – 19 in order to expedite the allowance of the application. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7-11 and 13 are in condition for allowance and this allowance is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, John Ciccozzi, at the telephone number listed below.

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A petition for a two month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-2842 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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